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Corrections Department**

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"We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Outlets Sent – Statewide Media Release

Reference: Proactive audit of inmate files finds early release

Date of Release: April 12, 2013

Subject(s): Dion Henderson #45774

Details: The New Mexico Corrections Department has been conducting a review of inmate files, to identify discrepancies, since October of 2012. NMCD is currently wrapping up Phase 1 of this plan, which included reviewing the files of inmates released from September 2010 –September 2012. There were 6,900 releases conducted in that two year span. The audit for Phase 1 is expected to be completed by the end of April.

While reviewing these files, a discrepancy was identified in the case of Dion Henderson. In 1994, Henderson shot and killed two men at a party. In 1995 he was sentenced to life for one murder, and 16 years for the other. He appealed that sentence, and in 1999 a judge amended the sentence to 21 years in the first murder and affirmed the 16 year sentence in the second murder. Mr. Henderson was given credit for the time he had served, but a mistake was made when his amended sentence was entered into NMCD's database to project his release date. The file should have been entered with the date at 1999 and given credit for time served, but the year was not changed from the original 1995. Therefore, Mr. Henderson was given the credit time served based on the 1995 date, and he was released early from prison. Ultimately, the mistake was made in 1999 that caused Mr. Henderson's release date to be miscalculated. If it hadn't been for this administration's proactive approach to review inmate files, this mistake may not have been caught.

Mr. Henderson was released in February 2012, and has been on Parole since that time. He has had not issues on Parole and was employed.

The discrepancy was identified on Monday, double checked, and confirmed on Tuesday. Within a matter of hours Parole Officers and members of the Security Threat Intelligence Unit had take Mr. Henderson back into custody.

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